

APR 24 2006

John A. Love

April 24, 2006

Kaua'i Charter Commission
4444 Rice Street
Lihu'e, HI 96766

Subject: Charter Amendment Recommendations

As concerned citizens, my wife and I offer the following recommendations:

Council Districts: We strongly support having each council member be elected from a specific district. We lived in Long Beach, California from 1986 through 1972. During that time, a decision was made to go from electing council members to represent districts to electing them from the city at large. The city government became much less responsive to the general public after that change was made. We would like to see Kaua'i's council become more responsive.

After much thought, we would not recommend that a council person be required to be a resident of the district which he or she represents. Also, we think that the divisions in the County's Tax Map Key might form the basis for defining council districts.

Kaua'i Cost Control Commission: In the past, I served for about two years on the Cost Control Commission. Based on that experience, I recommend that the Commission be abolished as such. My colleagues on the Commission came from diverse backgrounds and were dedicated and hard working. We met regularly and tried to formulate recommendations where we could have positive impact.

Looking back, we accomplished almost nothing. We did make a series of recommendations to the Mayor and the Council. They were largely ignored. I and other Commission members became increasingly frustrated and we just quit meeting when Mayor Kusaka left office.

I believe a consensus among Commission members was that big gains in improving the County's cost efficiency might be possible by improving management practices throughout the government. We did not think it was appropriate for the Cost Control Commission to take on what fundamentally is a management responsibility. To do so, the Commission would have had to analyze the operations of each organization in detail before trying to formulate recommendations for change.

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County Manager: We favor this concept. The Mayor could still set policy and the Council would still control the budget and pass implementing ordinances. A qualified County Manager could bring years of training and experience to the job of managing a bureaucracy. He or she would be responsible for improving management practices and efficiency. In crafting the County Manager's contract both the Mayor and the Council would have to delegate power and responsibility.

Signature Requirements for Initiatives, Referenda, and Recall of Officials:
We favor reducing the number of signatures required to qualify such items for a ballot to 5% of the registered voters.

Respectfully,



J. A. Love